

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT GENEVA 990 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
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QTE

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DEPT PASS ALSO TO N. E. JOHNSON, NOAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG WMO IR EG OPEC UNDP UNEP
SUBJECT: VISIT BY DCM TO SYG DAVIES WMO FEBURARY 13, 1975

REF: A) STATE 023468; B) STATE LOU 032044

1. SUMMARY: IN HOUR-LONG VISIT WITH WMO SYG DAVIES WE REVIEWED
POLITIZATION OF SPA'S AND THE POLITICAL ISSUES AT WMO 7TH CONGRESS:
OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND WMO FUNDING; FUNDING OF TECHNICAL
COOPERATION PROGRAMS; AND AMERICANS IN WMO SECRETARIAT. DAVIES
AGREED TO PROVIDE CURRENT INFORMATION ON MEMBERS RESPONDING
ON PRG BALLOTING. WAS ENCOURAGING ON POSSIBLITY AMERICAN FILLING
NEXT D-1 VACANCY. REQUEST FOR WMO MEMBERSHIP ALREADY RECEIVED
FROM DRV AND ONE EXPECTED FOR NORTH KOREA.

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2. MISSION OFFICERS REITERATED CONCERN OF US ON INCREASED POLITIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENCIES AND REFERRED TO DETERIMENTAL IMPACT ON ABILITY USG TO CONTINUE STRONG SUPPORT OF AGENCIES WHERE THIS OCCURRED. DAVIES SHARED THIS CONCERN, BUT HAD NO SPECIAL SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW APPROACHES TO PROBLEM. WE URGED HIS COOPERATION AND PROMISED OURS IN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE INFLUENCES ON WMO TECHNICAL PROGRAMS.

3. RE PRG BALLOTING, HE FELT HE HAD FOLLOWED CAREFULLY RULES LAID DOWN BY WMO EXCOM AND WHICH HAD BEEN EFFECT FOR MANY YEARS. THEREFORE, NOTHING NEW IN BALLOT TO INVITE PRG, THOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD OUR SPECIAL CONCERN. HE FELT HE COULD NOT GIVE INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL VOTING UNTIL AFTER RESULTS WERE ALL COUNTED, BUT SAID HE WOULD TELL US AT ANY TIME NUMBER OF BALLOTS RECEIVED. AS OF THIS DATE ONLY 31 ON HAND. DAVIES SAID HE WOULD BASE QUORUM ON NUMBER OF REPLIES TO EACH ELEMENT ON BALLOT SLIP, AND NOT BALLOTS COLLECTIVELY. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, HE DOUBTED THE QUORUM WOULD BE REACHED. HE REPORTED THAT HE STILL WITHHOLDING ACTION ON EARLIER REQUEST FROM GVN TO INVOKE WMO REGULATION NO. 65, WHICH MISSION NOW UNDERSTANDS WILL BE WITHDRAWN.

4. THE SYG REPORTED THAT REQUEST FOR WMO MEMBERSHIP HAD NOW BEEN RECEIVED FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND A CONGRESS DOCUMENT IS BEING ISSUED. REPRESENTATIVES OF DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAD CALLED ON HIM RECENTLY ENQUIRING ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

5. SYG'S VISIT TO IRAN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IN LONG DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER HE WAS GIVEN IMPRESSION THAT IRAN ANXIOUS TO TAKE MUCH MORE ACTIVE PART IN WMO AND TAKE ON INCREASED REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO ELEMENTS OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. HE GAVE NO DETAILS OF CHARACTERS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO GARP, INFORMATION ON WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IRAN AND FRANCE PLANNED FOR EARLY MARCH, WITH JOC (GARP) OFFICIALS ATTENDING. PM EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN DAVIES' COMMENTS ON US WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM TO INCREASE SNOWPACK OVER ROCKY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOUNTAIN AREA. APPARENTLY IRAN NOW CARRYING ON RANDOM WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES BUT LOOKING FOR ORGANIZED AND MORE PROMISING EFFORTS.

6. OTHER THAN IRAN, DAVIES HAD NO FEEL FOR WHAT OPEC COUNTRIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO DO WITH RESPECT TO WMO PROGRAMS. HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE INTEREST AT LEAST IN SETTING UP TRUST FUNDS WITH WMO. WE DID NOT PRESS FOR ANY SPECIFIC

ACTION IN THIS REGARD.

7. SYG REFERRED TO VISIT TO CAIRO FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT TAHA ON PLANS FOR WMO CONGRESS. TAHA STRESSED NEED TO DEAL WITH POLITICAL ITEMS EARLY IN SESSION, PROBABLY STARTING ON SECOND DAY. MET COMMITTEE OF ARAB LEAGUE WAS MEETING THE SAME TIME TO REVIEW POSITION ON CONGRESS AGENDA. NO MENTION MADE OF SPECIAL VIEWS. SYG THOUGHT US MIGHT APPROACH PRESIDENT AT TIME ON CONGRESS ON QUESTION OF INCREASED ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO WMO VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VAP).

8. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS FOR MANAGEMENT UNDP PROGRAMS STILL MAJOR CONCERN IN WMO, NOW FORCED TO REDUCE STAFF WITH SYG FEELS WILL HAVE ADVERSE ON UNDP ALLOCATIONS TO METEOR- OLOGY UNDER PRESENT RULES. HE IS SUGGESTING TO UNDP THAT SMALL AGENCIES NEED MINIMUM GUARANTY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, WITH SOME MEANS FOR RECOVERING AT LEAST PART OF EXTRA-ORDINARY COSTS NOT VISUALIZED IN BASE PROGRAM.

9. IN CONTRAST, DAVIES VERY PLEASED WITH UNEP COOPERATION, WHICH IS NOW GIVING SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT TO WMO. HE PRAISED ROLE OF PETER THACHER WHO WAS QUOTE DOING MOST TO HOLD THINGS TOGETHER, UNQUOTE.

10. IN RESPONSE TO OUR CONCERN OVER NEED FOR AMERICANS IN WMO SECRETARIAT, DAVIES REPEATED ARGUMENT THAT SMALL AGENCIES CAN NOT ADHERE TO STRICT GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION. NEVERTHELESS, HE WAS INTERESTED IN HAVING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS BECAUSE OF LARGE US ROLE IN ALL WMO PROGRAMS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE THAT AMERICAN WOULD BE NAMED IN DUE COURSE TO A D-1 POST, PRESUMABLY DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT. DALE

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